

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2005

To: Greg Carpenter

From: Mercedes McLemore

Subject: Minutes from October 12, 2005 LCWSG Meeting

Roll Call:

Ann Denison
Dave Bates
John Becker
Tom Lockhart
Joan McGrath
Janice Dahl
Thomas Marchese
Hank Snapper
Ric Trent
Lisa Rinaldi

City of Long Beach:

Greg Carpenter
Mercedes McLemore

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER—6:05 p.m.

Meeting Open for Public Comments—Reserved for next meeting

Meeting Open for Staff Comments—NONE

Chairman Ric Trent wanted to go immediately to the minutes from the October 5, 2005 Community Forum, and see if anyone noticed any necessary corrections. The group members suggested some parenthetical quotes be added addressing a few of the public comments that were made at the forum. The PowerPoint presentation will also be modified to include an additional guest speaker that the group saw who was not listed in the original.

Mr. Trent said that the group has laid a foundation for how to approach the final report to Councilman Colonna. He suggested that one section of this report include the information that was presented during the forum. The report will open with an executive summary that includes the purpose of the group, timing, guest speakers, and corpus of their recommendation. He felt this is necessary to avoid

people having to wade through the entire report in order to get the general idea of the study group's recommendation.

Hank Snapper suggested that there be room in the report for the majority and minority/dissenting opinion. Mr. Trent guaranteed Mr. Snapper that there would be room for this opinion in the summary as well as later on in the body of the report.

The second section of the report will be the information that was presented to the public, the major topic areas and overview. Mr. Trent stated that the group should review the minutes from each of the speakers to get more detail. These minutes were used to give a general presentation to the public, but they were not necessarily informational. Some information was provided during the guest speakers' presentations that are interesting and important for the community to know. However, the forum did not provide enough time to share all of that information. Mr. Trent believes that a zoning council will be formed eventually with the task of reviewing the current zoning and possibly changing SEADIP. The study group is not equipped to rezone the area. The report should act as a "tee-up" for a zoning council to refer to so that they do not have to cover or research things that the study group has already done.

Joan McGrath suggested including a mission statement of the group within the executive summary. Dave Bates wanted to know if specific uses would be suggested in the report. The group decided that was not necessary. There are many factors that need to be considered in determining the best uses for specific areas. While the study group was great for providing a voice for the community as a whole, an official zoning group should be established. There are all of contemporary issues existing in the wetlands area there were not considerations when SEADIP was written. It is important that in the final report, it is clearly conveyed that it is the official opinion of the study group members, as leaders of their specific groups and homeowner's associations.

Mr. Snapper asked what was the difference between the delegates and alternates of the study group. He wanted to know if the alternates could voice their opinions within the final report. Mr. Trent informed the group that the only way an alternate would have a "voice" in the final report was if they were replacing the originally assigned delegate. Next, Mr. Snapper expressed his disappointment in the lack of participation of other community groups. There were about 15 organizations invited to participate in the study group, and yet a large number of these organizations are not represented because members never chose to show up. Considering that about half of the invited organizations are present, it is not good that there are two spokespeople from each group. Mr. Snapper feels like a minority in the group because there are two reps for each group present coming to the meetings and voting. However, Mr. Trent guaranteed Mr. Snapper that there will be a single person from each group being represented in the final report.

Mr. Bates asked that the group also clarify in the report that it did not only consider Home Depot. The issues that they address are much larger than a single project. Mr. Trent agreed, stating that it should be discussed in the report because the project is the main reason for the study group forming. However, their concern is much greater than just the Home Depot site. This was not conveyed in the forum meeting. The group agreed that the delegates would be the ones to write the official opinion of their groups, but that the alternates had the option of writing an additional commentary in support or opposition to provide the full range of input from their neighbors. The "section leaders" for the second portion of the report are all actual delegates. But these people could call on whomever they wanted to give a more rounded, legitimate view from their organization.

The third section of the report would be official letters from the various HOAs and organizations represented in the study group. Each group shall submit an official letter from the President/leader giving their individual opinions.

The fourth section of the report will be the memorialization/minutes section. Greg Carpenter said that this section could also be used as an appendix. It would include press clippings and such. The group agreed to bring copies of their columns and articles to the next meeting.

The fifth section is designated for media reports and public comments. The group agreed to include all other handouts and informative materials collected and provided on the website, such as PowerPoint presentations, maps and such. In addition to this material, the report will include a resource page with other references that people could use for more information.

The group recommendation will be the final section of the report (Section Six). The idea is that once the reader has viewed all of the materials included in the report, they can see the recommendation that is based on this info. The minority opinion will be added here as well.

Mr. Trent told the group that the org letters shall be no more than three pages in length. The mission statement and executive summary should not exceed two pages. The topic areas/overviews should consist of the bullet points used in the presentation, as well as any additional points missed and a few sentences elaborating on each. The minutes and handouts section will be a major piece, and may even be a separate section altogether. They will decide that once the report sections are completed.

The group decided that the same people who were responsible for presenting the main topics at the forum would be responsible for writing about these topics in the final report. By the next meeting on November 9, 2005, these will be complete. Mr. Trent is responsible for completing the executive summary and

draft recommendation. Each person would forward their portion of the report to Mercedes McLemore, Community Planner for the area.

The group discussed the “minority opinion” issue further. Mr. Snapper stated that he would be considering alternative uses for the area. According to him, the majority of Spinnaker Bay residents wish to focus on restoring and preserving the wetlands. They also believe that people should face the fact that the storage tanks will probably not be converted. Like Doug Otto stated during the community forum, Mr. Snapper believes that no matter what happens, the Home Depot site will not be reverted to wetlands. People need to accept the fact that the property owner is a businessman in the purest sense. He owns hundreds of properties, most of which are truck depots. Although the owner is willing to try a commercial use on the site, it is currently zoned industrial. Therefore, a truck depot is still a possible use for that site and no one really wants to see that on the site either. Mr. Snapper also wants to address the possibility of extending Studebaker and addressing the existing traffic issues in the area. Mr. Bates said that the minority and majority have the same goals and agree in all of respects. Where they differ is the idea of placing a big box retail use on the site. Mr. Carpenter stated that Mr. Snapper may refine his opinion once he is able to read the majority opinion. In the meantime, both will write separate recommendations and come back in November to consider both.

Next, CJ Hentzen stood up to address Mr. Snapper. According to Mr. Hentzen, when he opened his garage the other night he saw 50 wildlife species. At night, he hears predators. In an area of 100 yards there are ground pelicans, great blues, great egrets, cattle egrets, and seagulls. He said that he is not a naturalist, but believes that we are losing a tremendous opportunity. Mr. Hentzen wants the owner to make money, but does not understand how Huntington Beach can spend so much money to restore wetlands while Long Beach cannot. He is willing to sell his house to preserve the wetlands. Mr. Snapper agreed with Mr. Hentzen’s concern for the wetlands, but does not believe that the Home Depot site is or will ever be wetlands. Mr. Bates said that the majority opinion/recommendation should be written first, and then the study group members should return a month later with a statement from their respective organizations. It is possible that there will be more than one “minority” opinion. Mr. Trent suggested that secular issues, such as continuing Studebaker through, should be addressed as options in the organization letters.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2005, 6:00 p.m.